

EXHIBIT 2

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION

GOOGLE LLC,

Plaintiff and Counter-defendant,

v.

SONOS, INC.,

Defendant and Counter-claimant.

Case No. 3:20-cv-06754-WHA
Related to Case No. 3:21-cv-07559-WHA

**FIRST SUPPLEMENTAL
REPLY EXPERT REPORT OF
DR. KEVIN C. ALMERO TH**

Rebuttal Report:



Schonfeld Rebuttal Report at ¶ 59 (citing SC-GOOG-SONOSNDCA-001637 – 38); *see also* 1/25/2023 K. MacKay Rough Dep. Tr. at 9:19-11:4, 23:13-16 (Google’s corporate designee testifying that the only change made [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]); Sonos Dep. Ex. 1320-1321.

93. In this respect, my understanding of how this additional call to the MultizoneManager::StopCurrentApp() function impacts the functionality of an Accused Google Player installed with newly-released firmware version 1.56.324896 is that, if such an Accused Google Player is running a particular receiver app at the time that it receives “join_group” message indicating that the Accused Google Player has been added to a new speaker group (e.g., the YouTube Music receiver app), the MultizoneManager::StopCurrentApp() function will cause the Accused Google Player to stop that particular receiver app. In this respect, if the particular receiver app being run by the Accused Google Player is currently causing the Accused Google Player to engage in active playback, then the MultizoneManager::StopCurrentApp() function will cause the Accused Google Player to stop that active playback, whereas if the receiver app being run by the Accused Google Player is not currently causing the Accused Google Player to engage in active playback, then the MultizoneManager::StopCurrentApp() function will not impact the playback state of the Accused Google Player. However, in either case, the additional call to the MultizoneManager::StopCurrentApp() function does not cause an Accused Google Player

operating in a standalone mode to transition into a grouped mode in which it operates in accordance with the new speaker group. Rather, the MultizoneManager::StopCurrentApp() function causes an Accused Google Player operating in a standalone mode to stop its currently-running receiver app (to the extent that there is a receiver app currently running) while the new speaker group remains in an unlaunched state and the Accused Google Player remains in standalone mode.

94. My understanding of the MultizoneManager::StopCurrentApp() function has been confirmed by the testimony of Google's corporate designee, Mr. Kenneth MacKay. *See, e.g.*, 1/25/2023 K. MacKay Rough Dep. Tr. at 15:22-21:8 (testifying about the portion of the RefreshDeviceGroups() function where the StopCurrentApp() function is called), 23:17-33:9 (describing the operation of the StopCurrentApp() function), 33:10-13 (confirming that the StopCurrentApp() function will not "perform any checking of group state as part of stopping the app"), 33:14-34:1 (confirming that there is "no group information" that is passed into the StopCurrentApp() function), 34:2-9 (confirming that the StopCurrentApp() function does not cause any speaker group to be launched); 41:22-48:2 (describing the operation of the StopCurrentApp() function and how it differs from the StopApp() and StopPlayback() functions), 48:12-55:9, 56:16-62:14 (describing the operation of the StopCurrentApp() function in different scenarios for creating and modifying speaker groups).⁷

95. Moreover, the other functions in the source code path for receiving and handling a "join_group" message for a new speaker group do not appear to meaningfully differ from the functions included in the foregoing source code path that was already found to infringe the "continuing to operate in the standalone mode" limitation of Asserted Claim 1 of the '885 Patent.

⁷ Mr. MacKay also testified that there may be scenarios where the StopCurrentApp() function will not stop a receiver app on an Accused Google Player installed with newly-released firmware version 1.56.324896, such as a scenario where the Accused Google Player is running a "non-visible app," as well as scenarios where a stopped current app is immediately replaced by another app that was "pending" and/or "preloaded" in the background at the time that the StopCurrentApp() function executes. *See* 1/25/2023 K. MacKay Rough Dep. Tr. at 27:7-28:1, 31:6-32:1, 43:15-45:6. These scenarios provide further support for my opinions, because even under Dr. Schonfeld's apparent theory that no longer running an app amounts to leaving "standalone mode," there will be scenarios where an Accused Google Player has at least one app running (or at least loaded) after executing the StopCurrentApp() function.

1 is added to a group that is not playing back music will stop playback when added
2 to that group.

3 Schonfeld Rebuttal Report at ¶ 47. However, this statement is flawed for several reasons.

4 98. First, Dr. Schonfeld's suggestion that "speakers added to the group *no longer*
5 *continue their previous activity* and instead either play back music (if that is what the group was
6 doing) or stop playback to match the group's state of stopped playback" is incomplete and
7 inaccurate. As set forth above in Section IX.A, there are a number of scenarios where Accused
8 Google Players installed with newly-released firmware version 1.56.324896 "continue their
9 previous activity" after being added to a speaker group. For instance, in any scenario where an
10 Accused Google Player installed with newly-released firmware version 1.56.324896 is operating
11 in a standalone mode and is not engaging in active playback at the time when it is added to a new
12 speaker group, that Accused Google Player will "continue [its] previous activity" after being added
13 to the speaker group by continuing to operate in standalone mode and continuing not to engage in
14 active playback. Likewise, in any scenario where an Accused Google Player installed with newly-
15 released firmware version 1.56.324896 is operating in a standalone mode and is not engaging in
16 active playback at the time when it is added to a pre-existing speaker group that is unlaunched,
17 that Accused Google Player will "continue [its] previous activity" after being added to the pre-
18 existing speaker group by continuing to operate in standalone mode and continuing not to engage
19 in active playback.

20 99. Second, for similar reasons, Dr. Schonfeld's suggestion that "[s]peakers added to a
21 speaker group do not continue with their previous playback or *non-playback state* when added to
22 a group" is incomplete and inaccurate. Again, as set forth above in Section IX.A, there are a
23 number of scenarios where Accused Google Players installed with newly-released firmware
24 version 1.56.324896 "continue with their previous . . . *non-playback state*" after being added to a
25 speaker group, including but not limited to the scenarios mentioned in the preceding paragraph.

26 100. Third, Dr. Schonfeld's suggestion that when an Accused Google Player installed
27 with newly-released firmware version 1.56.324896 is added to a new speaker group, the Accused
28 Google Player "stop[s] playback to match the group's state of stopped playback" is an inaccurate

1 and misleading characterization of the functionality for creating a new speaker group. In scenarios
2 where an Accused Google Player is added to a new speaker group being created, the group begins
3 in an uninvoked state (or an unlaunched state in Google's terms) – not a “state of stopped
4 playback” as Dr. Schonfeld contends – and the Accused Google Player makes no reference to the
5 “group's state” when handling the “join_group” message indicating that the Accused Google
6 Player has been added to the new speaker group.

7 101. Indeed, an Accused Google Player installed with newly-released firmware version
8 1.56.324896 carries out the same functionality for handling the “join_group” message that was
9 previously carried out by Accused Google Players installed with prior firmware versions, which
10 undisputedly did not involve any “match[ing]” of the “group's state,” along with one additional
11 call to the “StopCurrentApp()” function discussed above. However, this “StopCurrentApp()”
12 function does not make any reference to the “group's state,” let alone causes the Accused Google
13 Player to “match the group's state of stopped playback” as Dr. Schonfeld contends. Instead, the
14 “StopCurrentApp()” function merely causes the Accused Google Player to stop its current receiver
15 app, to the extent that such a receiver app is running. In this respect, if the receiver app being run
16 by the Accused Google Player is currently causing the Accused Google Player to engage in active
17 playback, then the “StopCurrentApp()” function will cause the Accused Google Player to stop that
18 active playback, whereas if the receiver app being run by the Accused Google Player is not
19 currently causing the Accused Google Player to engage in active playback, then the
20 “StopCurrentApp()” function will not impact the playback state of the Accused Google Player –
21 but in either case, the additional call to the “StopCurrentApp()” function does not cause an Accused
22 Google Player to “match the group's state of stopped playback.” And in a scenario where the
23 Accused Google Player is not currently running a receiver app, the “StopCurrentApp()” function
24 will have no impact at all on the state of the Accused Google Player. The foregoing operation of
25 the “StopCurrentApp()” function is confirmed by the testimony of Mr. MacKay cited above.

26 102. Turning to Dr. Schonfeld's discussion of the functionality for modifying a pre-
27 existing speaker group that is encoded within newly-released firmware version 1.56.324896, Dr.
28 Schonfeld begins that discussion by making the following statement:

1 added to a pre-existing speaker group that is in an *uninvoked state*. In those scenarios, the Accused
2 Google Player makes no reference to the “behavior of the group” while handling the “join_group”
3 message indicating that the Accused Google Player has been added to the pre-existing group, and
4 if the Accused Google Player was operating in standalone mode prior to being added to a pre-
5 existing group in an unlaunched state, the Accused Google Player will continue to operate in
6 standalone mode after being added to the pre-existing group. This is confirmed by the testimony
7 of Mr. MacKay cited above.

8 108. Further, while I agree that an Accused Google Player installed with newly-released
9 firmware version 1.56.324896 “*does not* play back music as a member of the group” in any
10 scenario where the Accused Google Player is being added to a pre-existing speaker group that is
11 in an *uninvoked state*, I disagree with Dr. Schonfeld’s suggestion that this functionality is premised
12 on “the group’s behavior beforehand.” Again, the Accused Google Player makes no reference to
13 the “the group’s behavior” while handling the “join_group” message indicating that the Accused
14 Google Player has been added to the pre-existing group, as confirmed by the testimony of Mr.
15 MacKay cited above.

16 109. Further yet, I disagree with Dr. Schonfeld’s suggestion that “the speaker joined to
17 the group switches to group playback upon being joined to the group.” In any scenario where a
18 pre-existing speaker group is in an *uninvoked state* when an Accused Google Player installed with
19 newly-released firmware version 1.56.324896 is added to the speaker group, the Accused Google
20 Player will continue to operate in standalone mode after being added to the pre-existing group
21 rather than “switch[ing] to group playback,” as confirmed by the testing I observed, the source
22 code for newly-released firmware version 1.56.324896, and Mr. MacKay’s testimony. In fact, Dr.
23 Schonfeld never once even suggests that adding an Accused Google Player installed with newly-
24 released firmware version 1.56.324896 to a pre-existing speaker group in an *uninvoked state* would
25 cause the pre-existing speaker group to become *invoked*, which is what dictates whether the group
26 members are configured for “grouped playback” in accordance with the group. *See, e.g.*,
27 1/25/2023 K. MacKay Rough Dep. Tr. at 34:10-37:23 (Google’s corporate designee describing the
28 distinction between a launched speaker group and an unlaunched speaker group and confirming

1 that (i) a follower begins “taking part in group playback” once it “receives a launch command from
2 the group leader” and “launches the multizone follower app,” (ii) the leader begins “taking part in
3 group playback” once “the app has finished launching” on the leader device, and (iii) “if a group
4 is in the unlaunched state, then the devices that are members of that group would not be playing
5 as part of that group”). Thus I fail to see what basis Dr. Schonfeld has for saying that the Accused
6 Google Player being added “switches to grouped playback upon being joined to the group” in these
7 scenarios where the pre-existing speaker group would remain in an *uninvoked state* after the
8 Accused Google Player is added.

9 110. Turning next to Dr. Schonfeld’s discussion of the functionality for creating a new
10 speaker group that is encoded within newly-released firmware version 1.56.324896, Dr. Schonfeld
11 begins that discussion by making the following statement:

12 I now describe the behavior of a speaker added to a group where the group was not
13 previously created. As shown below, regardless of whether one speaker being
14 added to the new group is playing music, whether multiple speakers being added to
15 the new group are playing music, whether speakers being added to the new group
16 are playing the same music or different music, or whether no speakers being added
17 to the new group are playing music, the result is the same: In each instance, each
18 speaker added to the new group acts as a member of the group by not playing back
19 any music. Further, each speaker added to the new group leaves its prior playback
20 state, and its playback is stopped at the same time and in conjunction with every
21 other speaker in the new group. Below, I provide various examples of this behavior
22 and I discuss the relevant source code enabling this functionality. Each scenario
23 begins with no group previously created.

19 Schonfeld Rebuttal Report at ¶ 54. However, this statement is flawed for several reasons.

20 111. First, Dr. Schonfeld’s suggestion that “each speaker added to the new group acts as
21 a member of the group by not playing back any music” is incomplete, misleading, and inaccurate.
22 While an Accused Google Player installed with newly-released firmware version 1.56.324896 that
23 is added to a new speaker group will internally memorialize that it has been added as a member of
24 the new speaker group in the same way that Accused Google Players installed with prior firmware
25 versions would have done, an Accused Google Player installed with newly-released firmware
26 version 1.56.324896 does not “act[] as a member of the group” in terms of its playback behavior,
27 as Dr. Schonfeld appears to suggest. To the contrary, an Accused Google Player that is operating
28

1 in standalone mode before being added to a new speaker group will continue to operate in
2 standalone mode after being added to the new speaker group, as confirmed by the testing I
3 observed, the source code for newly-released firmware version 1.56.324896, and Mr. MacKay's
4 testimony. In this respect, the fact that an Accused Google Player installed with newly-released
5 firmware version 1.56.324896 does not engage in active playback after being added to a new
6 speaker group is due to the Accused Google Player's additional call to the "StopCurrentApp()"
7 function, which has nothing to do with the playback behavior of the new speaker group. I further
8 note that, because the new speaker group did not previously exist and is in an uninvoked state at
9 the time of creation, it is not clear to me what playback behavior Dr. Schonfeld is even referring
10 to.

11 112. Second, I disagree with Dr. Schonfeld's suggestion that "each speaker added to the
12 new group *leaves its prior playback state*, and its playback is stopped at the same time and in
13 conjunction with every other speaker in the new group." As confirmed by the testing I observed,
14 which is summarized above in Section IX.A, as well as the source code for newly-released
15 firmware version 1.56.324896, which is summarized above in Section IX.B, an Accused Google
16 Player installed with newly-released firmware version 1.56.324896 that is operating in standalone
17 mode and not engaging in active playback at the time when it is added to a new speaker group will
18 remain in its "prior playback state" by continuing to operate in standalone mode and continuing to
19 not engage in active playback after being added to the new speaker group. Moreover, while an
20 Accused Google Player installed with newly-released firmware version 1.56.324896 that is
21 operating in standalone mode and is individually engaging in active playback at the time when it
22 is added to a new speaker group will stop engaging in active playback after being added to the new
23 speaker group, this functionality is due to the Accused Google Player's additional call to the
24 "StopCurrentApp()" function, which has nothing to do with the playback behavior of the new
25 speaker group.

26 113. For similar reasons, I also disagree with Dr. Schonfeld's characterization of the
27 scenarios he shows and describes at paragraphs 55-57 of his Rebuttal Report. *See* Schonfeld
28 Rebuttal Report at ¶¶ 55-57. In those paragraphs, Dr. Schonfeld shows scenarios where new

1 speaker groups of Accused Google Players installed with newly-released firmware version
2 1.56.324896 are created, and Dr. Schonfeld describes the end result of those scenarios in terms of
3 the Accused Google Players “operat[ing] as a group playing back no music,” which is not an
4 accurate characterization. What Dr. Schonfeld fails to acknowledge or recognize is that in each
5 scenario in which a new speaker group is created, the new speaker group starts out in an *uninvoked*
6 *state* (or an unlaunched state in Google’s terms), which means that the Accused Google Players
7 added to the new speaker group are not “operat[ing] as a group” as a result of the new speaker
8 group being created. To the contrary, the Accused Google Players added to the new speaker group
9 do not begin “operat[ing] as a group” until the new speaker group is later invoked at the request
10 of a user, and as such, any Accused Google Players that is operating in standalone mode at the
11 time that it is added to a new speaker group will continue to operate in standalone mode after being
12 added to the new speaker group, rather than transitioning to a grouped mode. *See, e.g.*, 1/25/2023
13 K. MacKay Rough Dep. Tr. at 34:10-37:23 (Google’s corporate designee describing the distinction
14 between a launched speaker group and an unlaunched speaker group and confirming that (i) a
15 follower begins “taking part in group playback” once it “receives a launch command from the
16 group leader” and “launches the multizone follower app,” (ii) the leader begins “taking part in
17 group playback” once “the app has finished launching” on the leader device, and (iii) “if a group
18 is in the unlaunched state, then the devices that are members of that group would not be playing
19 as part of that group”).

20 114. Dr. Schonfeld concludes his discussion of the functionality for creating a new
21 speaker group that is encoded within newly-released firmware version 1.56.324896 as follows:

22 As shown above, in every instance, the speakers added to the group act in
23 conjunction with the group once the new group is created. The speakers leave their
24 prior state, stop playback in unison, and remain stopped in conjunction with the
25 group.

26 Schonfeld Rebuttal Report at ¶ 53. However, I disagree with this conclusion for many of the same
27 reasons just discussed.

28 115. For instance, to the extent Dr. Schonfeld’s is using the phrase “act in conjunction
with the group” to mean operate in accordance with the group, I disagree with Dr. Schonfeld’s

1 may do this in a responsive report or in a supplemental report as appropriate.

2 299. I expect to testify at trial regarding the matters set forth in this report, if asked about
3 these matters by the Court or by the parties' attorneys.

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6 Dated: January 26, 2023

By: Kevin C Almeroth
Kevin C. Almeroth